Nebraska Numismatic Association

# NEWSLETTER

ORGANIZED MCMLVI

# Nebraska Numismatic Association

STATE WIDE CLUB MEETING NIGHTS

ALLIANCE - Sandhills Coin Club, 3rd Wednesday, Alliance National Bank, 7:30 PM.

FREMONT - Fremont Coin Club, 3rd Saturday, Equitable Civic Center, Alco Plaza, Hwy 30, 7:30 PM.

GRAND ISLAND - Grand Island Coin Club, 1st Monday, Blue Flame Room, Gas Company.

HASTINGS - South Central Coin Club, 4th Monday, Hastings Museum.

LINCOLN - Lincoln Coin Club, 2nd Thursday, ISCO Building, 531 Westgate Blvd., 7:30 PM.

NEBRASKA CITY - Nebraska City Coin Club, no regular scheduled meeting.

NORTH PLATTE - Platte Valley Coin Club, 3rd Tuesday, Community Room, Gas Company.

OGALLALA - Ogallala Coin Club, 2nd Monday, Keith County Courthouse, 7:30 PM.

OMAHA - Omaha Coin Club, 3rd Friday, Commercial Federal Savings, 96th and "L" Streets, 7:30 PM.

OMAHA - SAC/Midwest Coin Club, 1st Tuesday, Commercial Federal Savings, 96th and "L" Streets, 7:30 PM.

SCOTTSBLUFF - Oregon Trail Coin Club, 2nd Tuesday, McDonald's Offices, 511 West 27th, 7:30 PM.

WAHOO - Wahoo Coin Club, 1st Saturday, Farmers Mutual Insurance Bldg., 5th and Linden Streets, 8:00 PM.

NEBRASKA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION -- Executive Board

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Nebraska
Numismatic Association

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY [illegible]

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NEWSLETTER
The Nebraska NEWSLETTER is the non profit publication of the Nebraska Numismatic Association. Articles are soley the views of the authors. Your questions, suggestions and articles or advertising are avidly solicited.

N.N.A. Editor: Steven C. Drake
6411 No. 77 St.
Omaha, NE 68134

# News Letter Advertising

The newsletter's advertisements are not just limited to coin related advertisements. If you have a business or just want to put your name in the newsletter as a booster, you are welcome to do so. Please provide ready made copies, since we are very limited in doing art work. There is a 25% discount if you advertise in four consecutive issues.

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| Full Page | $15.00 | Dec. 1 for the Jan. Issue |
| Half Page | $ 8.00 | Mar. 1 for the Apr. Issue |
| Quarter Page | $ 5.00 | June 1 for the July Issue |
| Booster Name | $ 2.00 | Sep. 1 for the Oct. Issue |

# FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Members:

When you read this the holidays will probably be over or at least winding down. Hope you had a good season.

As we look to the new year, may each of us increase in knowledge and enjoyment, not only of our hobby but of life in general.

I trust you have been getting to a coin show now and then as I have. It's fun to look around and "kick some tires" and even if I don't buy anything, (which is seldom), it is still a source of education. It is my hope also that you make time for your local clubs.

It's not too early to begin planning to the state N.N.A. Convention slated for Omaha for next May. I am looking forward to seeing you there. We can expect a fine show and convention from the Omaha folks, and I am sure the dealers will have some goodies for every taste. Why not be thinking of an exhibit for the show? Remember, this is <u>your</u> club and we need <u>your</u> participation to make it work the way it should and the way it can.

That's about it for now. Best of luck, health and happiness for the new year. Good hunting.

Your club's president,

Chuck Stowers

Chuck Stowers

# club news

FREMONT COIN CLUB: The club held its Christmas meeting Dec. 17th. Bingo was played while members enjoyed Christmas sweets and goodies.

OMAHA COIN CLUB: The club had a special tour of the Western Heritage Museum at its November meeting. In March 1989, the Byron Reed Coin Collection will go on display at the museum.

PLATTE VALLEY COIN CLUB: The club held its annual Ladies Night meeting at the North Platte Bonanza Resturant December 20th. A gift was provided for each lady in attendance.

WAHOO COIN CLUB: Held a potluck dinner for its December meeting. A while elephant auction was held, with the proceeds going to the Young Numismatist fund.

ATTENTION N.N.A. MEMBERS

Article V Section 1. of the constitution states that the President shall call for nominations of officers to appear in the January issue of the newsletter. This year the office of President, 1st & 2nd Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer positions must be filled. Please send all nominations to Secretarty/Treasurer Elmer G. Nelson. All nominations should be mailed to Elmer by March 1, 1989.

DID YOU KNOW? 211 people from Nebraska belong to the American Numismatic Association and just 132 belong to the Nebraska Numismatic Association. Why?

DID YOU KNOW? Over 175 people belong to the South Dakota Coin and Stamp Association, and South Dakota has less than half the people as Nebraska.

DID YOU KNOW? Now is the time to promote your Nebraska Numismatic Association. This is your state club.

It is time to renew your dues if your name is listed! Carl Adrian, Harold Bauer, Ralph Bauer, Bud Benson, Anthony Calvacca Jr., Allen Dayton, Mel Ellis, Blu Grayson, Roger Larson, Hale Laws, Brian Lockhart, Marvin Luke, Glen Wenzl, Doug Wlloughby, Ray Young, Jim Aksamit.

Gus Anderson, Hans Andresen, Alfred Babka, Dorothy Babka, Charles Boldt, I.C.G. Campbell, Dr. J.H. Cerny, Dave Dorfman, Chris Hansen, William Hansen, Bill Hokanson, Stan Johnson, Dick Kincaid, Gelvin Leeper, Emil Mares, Maurice McAvoy Robert Mein, Gerhard Niebuhr, Jim Pearce, Ray Plouzek, Max Potter, Tom Reynolds, Don Robertson, J.S. Schreiber, Mabel Statler, Don Thibodeau, Dan Thompson, Michael Thompson, Joel Walden, David Walker, Gerome Walton, Roger Winkelhake, John Chamgerlain, Wayne Hohndorf, Leonard Jakub, John Krotz, Don Mark, Leon Messenger, Loyd Peters, Ernie Policky, Ed Roth, and Clarence Yackey.

Please send dues to Elmer G. Nelson, P.O. Box 683, Sutherland, NE 69165

GRAND ISLAND COIN CLUB

# COIN SHOW

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# January 7-8

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# CALENDAR

Jan. 7-8 Grand Island Coin Club, Annual Show, Midtown Holiday Inn, [illegible] W. Locust, Grand Island, NE

Feb. [illegible] Nebraska City Coin Club, 25th Annual Show, Memorial Bldg., [illegible] 1st Corso, Nebraska City, NE

Mar. 4-5 American Numismatic Association, 11th Annual Midwinter Convention, Broadmoor Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO

Mar. 1[illegible] Lincoln Coin Club, Annual Show, Airport Holiday Inn, Lincoln, NE

Apr. 14-15 Kansas Numismatic Association, Annual Convention, Omaha Inn, 400 W. Douglas, Wichita, KS

Apr. 20-23 Central States Numismatic Society, Annual Convention, Overland Park, KS

Apr. [illegible] Fremont Coin Club, [illegible]th Annual Show, Holiday Lodge, Hwy [illegible], Fremont, NE

MAY 13-14 NEBRASKA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, 34th Annual Convention, Hosted by the Omaha Coin Club, Holiday Inn, I-[illegible] & [illegible]nd St., Omaha, NE

Oct. 21-22 Omaha Coin Club, 30th Annual Show, Holiday Inn, I-[illegible] & 72nd St., Omaha, NE

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FUTURE NEBRASKA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION CONVENTIONS:

1990.....Lincoln, hosted by the Lincoln Coin Club

1991.....North Platte, hosted by the Platte Valley Coin Club

1992.....Fremont, hosted by the Fremont Coin Club

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OLYMPIC COIN PROFITS DON'T MEET USOC EXPECTATIONS

The U.S. Olympic Committee will make about half of the [illegible] million it expected from sales of 1984 Olympic coins, USOC President Robert Helmick said. "Sales have lagged considerably behind what had been represented to us," he said. "We now expect a range of between [illegible] million and [illegible] million.

The USOC announced--after passage of the Olympic Coin Act--that it would commit half of the money to direct cash payments for Olympic-caliber athletes.

But Helmick said that pledge is not threatened by the new coin revenue estimates. "We have resolved...that we will ensure [illegible] million for direct-cash assistance," he said.

Status of coin sales is among topics the USOC Executive Board will review when it meets Saturday and Sunday in Minneapolis. Helmick said the USOC will seek "a more aggressive role" in coin sales.

---USA TODAY--- November 11, 1986

*NEBRASKA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION*

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## THE NICKELS OF 1938

by Steven C. Drake

The Act of September 25, 1890, had a major impact on the nickels of 1938. The Act included, among other things, that coin designs could not be changed more often than every 25 years. Mint officials seemed to have had enough of the Buffalo Nickel and announced a competition for a new design known as the Jefferson Nickel.

Both series, Buffalo and Jefferson Nickels, are very much collector oriented. It seems that investors are not interested in nickels. Buffalo Nickels, except for a couple cases, can be purchased for less than one hundred dollars in very fine condition; most for less than fifty dollars. All Jefferson Nickels can be purchased for fifty dollars or less in uncirculated condition. Plus, you still can find most Jefferson Nickels in circulation.

Before we discuss the Buffalo Nickels of 1938, here is a little background of the Buffalo Nickel design. James Earle Fraser was the designer of the Buffalo Nickel. Mr. Fraser used a composite of three Indian chiefs for the obverse design. The three Indians used for the composite were Two Moons, John Big Tree, and Iron Tail, an opponent of General Custer at the Battle of Little Big Horn.

It is commonly agreed that Fraser used an American bison by the name of Black Diamond for his reverse design. Black Diamond lived in the Central Park Zoo of New York City. Except for zoologists, most people do not know the difference between a buffalo and a bison; but the coin has been known as the Buffalo Nickel.

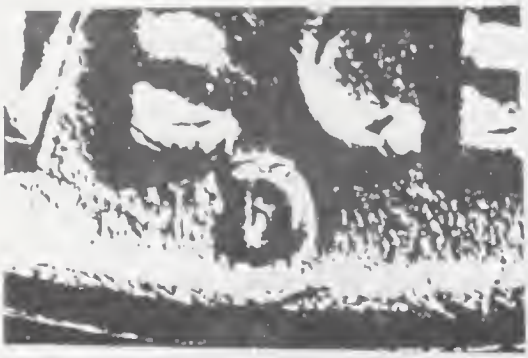
In April 1913, it was discovered that the words FIVE CENTS would have to be modified to keep the words from wearing away too quickly. Thus, mint engraver, Charles E. Barber, made the necessary change of recessing the words FIVE CENTS below the buffalo. Barber also took the liberty to "touch up" other parts of the design. Barber smoothed out the Indian's hair, wrinkles, and feathers. Also Black Diamond's hide was diluted. Thus the Buffalo Nickel has two major varieties. The 1938 nickels are of the second variety.

The Denver Mint was the only mint to strike Buffalo Nickels in 1938. Once it was decided not to produce coins at the San Francisco Mint, officials decided to economize a little. Instead of destroying the reverse dies designated for San Francisco, a "D" mint mark was

punched over the "S" mint mark. There are three different reverse dies that were used with "D over S". Plus there are several dies that "D" was repunched over "D". Thus the Buffalo Nickels are known as 1938-D, 1938-D over D, and 1938-D over S.

Here is a brief history of the 1938-D over S. This was the first coin discovered with an over mint mark! Over dates had happened in American coinage before, but never an over mint mark. C. G. Langworthy and Robert Kerr of Jamestown, New York, are credited with discovering the over mint mark in 1962. A front-page article of COIN WORLD (3/16/62) tells that Mr. Langworthy had in storage for twenty-four years 40 rolls of bank-sealed, uncirculated 1938-D nickels. One day Langworthy decided to transfer the coins to tubes and decided to check them. The first coin he looked at was a "D over S". Later he told his friend, Robert Kerr and they both searched for "D over S" Buffalo Nickels.

Q. David Bowers of the Empire Coin Co. of Binghamton, New York, was the first recognized numismatic authority to authenticate the over mint mark. Bowers stated, "As a coin with two different mint marks, each clearly distinguishable, the 1938 D/S nickel is unique in American numismatics." Bowers went on to call it the "Find of the Century".



Variations of D over S

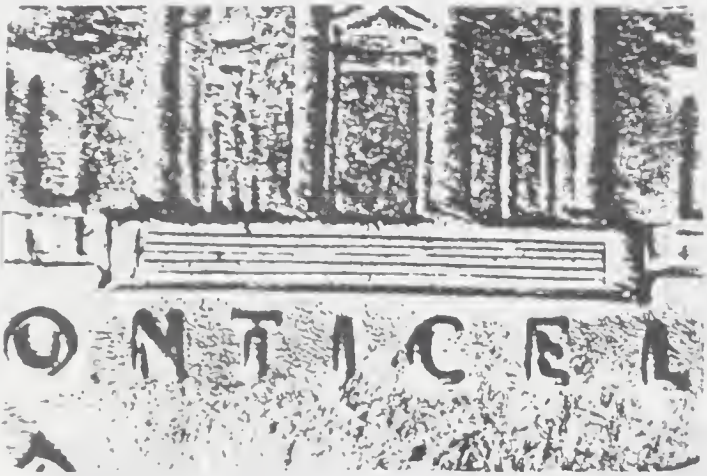
Treasury officials announced a national competition for a new design for the five cent coin known as the "Jefferson Nickel" as soon as the Act of September 25, 1890 allowed. The competition was open to all American sculptors. Sculptors were required to submit two plaster models, one representing the obverse and one for the reverse. $1,000 was to be paid to the winner.

On April 20th the design by Felix O. Schlag of Chicago was selected from among 390 entries. The Federal Fine Arts Commission rejected Schlag's side view of Monticello. A Treasury directive demanded a front view of Jefferson's home. Lettering had to be narrowed and spaced closer together to leave room for the word "Monticello." Schlag also did some alterations to Jefferson's bust on the obverse.

In preparing for the competition, Felix Schlag read everything he could on Jefferson. He also made several pencil sketches of Jefferson, but none to his satisfaction. One night Felix visited a neighborhood bookstore and found a magazine with Jefferson's portrait that he liked and was able to complete his design.

"Reverse of 1938"

The production of the Jefferson Nickel began during the second week of September. Apparently due to dissatisfaction with the weak appearance of the steps on Monticello, the Treasury prepared a new galavano with sharply defined steps in 1939. Thus 1938 is the only year where all coins produced that year had the wavy step variety. 1939 issues can be found with both wavy and straight steps. Not to be confused with the wartime nickels known as variety II, the reverse designs are known as the "Reverse of 1938" and "Reverse of 1940" since 1940 issues had the straight steps.




"Reverse of 1940"

(Photographs in this article were provided by Bill Fivaz of Dunwoody, Georgia.)

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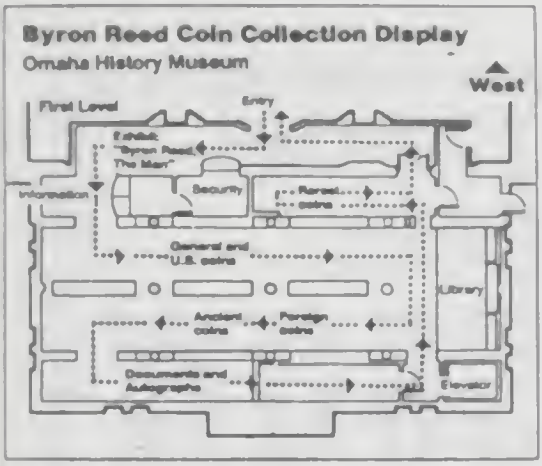


The diagram shows the layout plannad for display of the Byron Reed collection. Tha exhibit is expected to open in February 1989. Diagram courtasy of tha Omaha *World Herald*

The Byron Reed collection of coins, documents and autographs will be exhibited in the Western Heritage Museum of Omaha, Neb., beginning in February 1989, states museum director Mary McKinney.

An Omaha real estate developer, Reed died in 1891. His collection was donated to the city of Omaha at the time of his death. The collection will be displayed on one floor of the museum, which was originally a railroad station. The 1931 Art Deco structure is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Reed's collection consists of U.S., foreign and ancient coins. The rarest coins in the collection will be displayed in a seperate section. Documents and autographs will also be exhibited. Reed's autograph collection includes signatures of Beethoven and Mozart.

"We're hoping that the collection will attract tourists," said McKinney.


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Secretary/Treasurer N.N.A.
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